

SEN. LONG SIDES WITH GARRISON

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Convinced Warren Commission in Error

U. S. Sen. Russell B. Long (D-La.) sided with Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison in a televised interview Sunday and said he is convinced that the Warren Commission was in error when it pegged Lee Harvey Oswald as the lone assassin of President John F. Kennedy.

"It seems to me that anyone who would read what Mr. Garrison had to say on the subject—and I've read quite a bit of it—and read how he marshals his evidence, read the article that appeared in the Saturday Evening Post and some of the others, would just have to conclude that the Warren Report is necessarily in error," Long said.

"And if that's the case," he added, "it would seem to me that there ought to be a further effort to investigate that matter to get at the real facts, even though the trail is very cold by now."

CONCISE ACCOUNTS

Long was first asked if he had analyzed Garrison's new theory: that the President was struck down with a .45 - caliber bullet. "All I know about it is the very concise newspaper accounts that I read of what Mr. Garrison was supposed to have said recently," he answered.

"Personally, I was very much impressed by an article that appeared in the Saturday Evening Post on that issue, which was parallel to what Mr. Garrison is saying," Long said. "I don't think I see any conflict between what the author of that article said and what Mr. Garrison is saying."

"As you know, I have always felt that there was someone involved in this matter besides just Oswald," he continued. "I

think Mr. Garrison is doing his duty and trying to really find out who that other person might have been — or those other persons."

NATIONAL DEBT

Discussing what President Johnson in November said was a \$35 billion national debt, Long said the greater portion of that debt is money which the federal government owes itself.

"For example, about \$25 billion of that national debt is bonds that are owned by the Federal Reserve, and the Federal Reserve is owned by the federal government," he said.

Long, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said the national debt should be considered in terms of National Income Accounts: by seeing how much money the federal government takes in and how much it spends, "then to look upon the difference as being a surplus or deficit."

"Now, on that basis, the deficit right now would be projected to be about \$19 billion for this year that we're in. That will probably be reduced to a considerable extent by the President withholding funds . . . there's been some indication that he expects to save about \$4 billion by not spending a lot of money which could be spent on some of the programs that are in effect."

Long maintained that the deficit and some inflation was due to the Vietnam war. "We've always had a substantial deficit while the war was on our hands," he said, adding that "this is to be expected."